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## 108 Five Carroll-area sites want to become 'Great Places'

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Five Carroll-area locations have asked the state for designation under the Iowa Great Places program.

Gov. Tom Vilsack announced the initiative in his 2005 Condition of the State address, challenging state agencies and Iowans to be bold and creative and develop new partnerships for turning neighborhoods, communities, districts, regions and other areas into great places where people want to live, work, stay and play.

Carroll, Coon Rapids/Middle Raccoon River Valley, Lake City, Lake View and Manning were among the 145 places to submit invitations to the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

"The number and the quality of the invitations we received show the tremendous enthusiasm for Great Places," said IDCA director Anita Walker. "Iowans clearly accepted the challenge to think about what was genuine and authentic about their places and dream about what it would take to make them

great places."

About 75 coaches from state government are being dispatched in

teams to all the places that submitted invitations. Coaches will work with the places throughout the summer to help them move their Great Place visions forward.

Coaches will help places identify next steps and assess their readiness to present offers to the Great Places Citizen Advisory Board to be considered one of the pilot Great Places. The board will select three pilots in early October.

"Each and every one of the 145 places that extended invitations will benefit from the Great Places initiative through the coaching process and new training opportunities," Walker said. "The three pilot Great Places will be part of our learning laboratory in this first year of Great Places, during which the state will explore coordinated, focused ways to deliver technical and financial assistance to deliver powerful results."